

Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-25

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4463

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, RO
SUBJECT: CCC CREDITS: ROMANIAN REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL CCC CREDITS FOR FEED GRAINS

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATAN SPOKE TO ME EVENING
SEPTEMBER 25 AT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S REQUEST TO ASK
FOR FURTHER CCC CREDITS TO PURCHASE FEED GRAINS
(CORN, BARLEY AND SORGHUM) IN LIGHT OF ROMANIAN
CORN HARVEST TURNING OUT TO BE MUCH WORSE THAN EXPECTED.
WHEN I SAID I'D BEEN ABOUT TO ASK HIM WHY GOR HAD NOT
MADE USE OF THE FEED GRAIN CREDITS GRANTED EARLIER
THIS SUMMER, PATAN SAID HE HAD DELIBERATELY HELD OFF IN
THE HOPES THAT WEATHER CONDITIONS WOULD IMPROVE
SUFFICIENTLY SO AS NOT TO REQUIRE ROMANIA TO USE THE
FULL AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT. INSTEAD, ROMANIA HAS
ENDED UP IN A POSITION WHICH IS MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN
ANYONE HAD ANTICIPATED. THE CORN HARVEST IN THE WHOLE
DOBORGEOA REGION HAS BEEN A DISASTER BECAUSE OF NO
RAIN. ONLY IALOMITA DISTRICT WILL STILL PRODUCE A
REASONABLE HARVEST BUT ILFOV DISTRICT, THE OTHER MAJOR
SUPPLIER, WILL FALL SUBSTANTIALLY SHORT.

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2. I REMINDED PATAN THAT WE OURSELVES, DESPITE EARLIER

HOPES, HAD HAD A MUCH WORSE HARVEST THAN WE HAD EXPECTED AND SAID I WAS THEREFORE DOUBTFUL HOW MUCH MORE, IF ANYTHING, WE COULD PROVIDE IN THE WAY OF CREDITS. HE RECALLED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLIER EXTENSION OF CCC CREDITS AND SAID ROMANIA WAS TURNING TO THE US FIRST IN HOPES THAT SOME WAY COULD BE FOUND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THIS SITUATION WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAD BECOME EVEN WORSE THAN ORIGINALLY FEARED WHEN HE TALKED TO SECRETARY DENT LAST SPRING. ACCORDING TO HIS CALCULATIONS, THE EXISTING CREDITS WILL ENABLE ROMANIA TO PURCHASE ABOUT ANOTHER 170,000 TONS (BEYOND 38,000 TONS OF CORN ALREADY BOUGHT) WHEREAS CURRENT ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS CALL FOR AN ADDITIONAL 320,000 TONS (EQUALING A LINE OF CREDIT OF FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS). I TOLD PATAN THAT IF THERE WERE ANY CHANCE OF ROMANIA OBTAINING FURTHER CREDITS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR US TO PROVIDE WASHINGTON WITH SUFFICIENT DETAIL ON ROMANIAN NEEDS.

3. WE HAD HOPED TO RECEIVE THESE DETAILS SEPTEMBER 26 FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BUT IT NOW APPEARS WE WILL NOT HAVE THEM FOR ANOTHER DAY OR SO. IN THE MEANTIME, SINCE AMBASSADOR BOGDAN IS ALSO BEING ASKED TO RAISE THIS QUESTION IN WASHINGTON, WE ARE SENDING THIS MESSAGE. PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE ARE ANY PARTICULAR DATA WHICH WE SHOULD TRY TO OBTAIN FROM GOR OTHER THAN ON THE RESULTS OF THE CORN HARVEST AND ITS EFFECT ON FEED GRAIN STOCKS.
BARNES

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